

Message Text

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FOR ARA, D AND L ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

1. AT MY INVITATION, FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS CAME TO THE RESIDENCE FOR LUNCH TODAY FOR AN INDEPTH DISCUSSION OF THE LETELIER CASE AND THE MUCH DISPUTED PRESENCE OF MESSRS PROPPER, BARCELLA AND THE FBI AGENTS IN SANTIAGO. ORIGINALLY HE HAD ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH ME AND MR. PROPPER, WHO WAS TO GIVE HIM A DETAILED OUTLINE OF THE CASE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE ALMOST HYSTERICAL PRESS REACTION TO PROPPER'S PRESENCE AND SHRILL ACCUSATIONS OF "INTERFERENCE," THE FOREIGN MINISTER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WISER NOT TO MEET WITH HIM BUT TO SEE ME ALONE.

2. BASED ON TALKING POINTS PREPARED BY MR. PROPPER, I GAVE HIM AN OUTLINE OF WHAT TOWNLEY HAD TOLD JUSTICE AND FBI. I TOLD HIM THAT, IN MR. PROPPER'S VIEW, THE GOC HAD NOT LIVED UP TO THE WRITTEN MUTUAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WHEREBY EACH GOVERNMENT WOULD INVESTIGATE THE CASE INDEPENDENTLY AND EXCHANGE THEIR FINDINGS. WE HAD MADE
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TOWNLEY AVAILABLE TO GENERAL OROZCO, BUT HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION INDEPENDENTLY DEVELOPED BY THE GOC. I CITED TWO EXAMPLES OF LACK OF COOPERATION, SPECIFICALLY THE NEED FOR A HIGH GOC OFFICIAL TO CALL COL. BENITO GUANES, CHIEF OF J-2 OF THE PARAGUAYAN ARMED FORCES, TO INFORM HIM THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION ON THE PART OF THE GOC TO HIS TESTIFYING BEFORE AND COOPERATING WITH U.S.

AUTHORITIES. FYI GENERAL MENA HAD PREVIOUSLY REFUSED TO CALL GUANES AND SAID HE WOULD MAKE THIS SUGGESTION ONLY IF THE PARAGUAYANS CALLED HIM. END FYI.

3. I ALSO ASKED THAT LT. COL. RAUL ITTURRAGA NEUMANN BE ALLOWED TO TESTIFY IN THE UNITED STATES. I EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS A CRUCIAL WITNESS AND THAT THERE WERE NO REGULATIONS PREVENTING HIM FROM DOING SO. AGAIN I STRESSED THAT GENERAL OROZCO HAD NOT BEEN FORTHCOMING TO THIS REQUEST.

4. FINALLY, I PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY AGAINST THE EXCESSIVE AND SHRILL ANTI-AMERICAN TONE IN THE CHILEAN PRESS. I CONSIDERED IT TO BE THE DUTY OF THE GOC TO ISSUE A STATEMENT CONFIRMING THAT THE VISIT OF PROPPER AND THE FBI AGENTS WAS IN LINE WITH PREVIOUSLY AGREED COOPERATION; IN NO WAY VIOLATING CHILEAN SOVEREIGNTY; AND THAT THE U.S. HAD GRANTED THE SAME FACILITY TO CHILEAN INVESTIGATORS RECENTLY. THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOOK COPIOUS NOTES AND PROMISED ME AN ANSWER BY TOMORROW ON THE PRESS RELEASE. I WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON THIS MATTER IF I DON'T RECEIVE AN ANSWER QUICKLY.
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